

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GUATEM 04212 062140Z  
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 FBIE-00 PA-02  
PRS-01 /024 W

-----075732 070333Z /64

R 062100Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6635

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 4212

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES (TRAGESER, DAVID ERIC)

SUBJ: DEATH: DAVID ERIC TRAGESER BORN MASS. NOV. 30, 1956

EMBASSY INFORMED JULY 2 THAT DAVID ERIC TRAGESER OF 9 NORTH GATEWAY, WINCHESTER, MASS. 01890 DROWNED, PROBABLY ON JUNE 29, IN LAKE ATITLAN, GUATEMALA. BODY RECOVERED JULY 2. CONOFF IDENTIFIED VICTIM BY US PPT H1286358 ISSUED MAY 10, 1977 AT CHICAGO, DRIVERS LICENCE AND JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE (VERMONT) ID CARD. THESE DOCUMENTS REPORTEDLY WERE IN PLASTIC BAG WHICH FLOATED ASHORE BEFORE BODY FOUND. BODY WAS IN VERY BAD SHAPE. FINGERPRINTS TAKEN AND HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO FBI FOR POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION, ALTHOUGH GIVEN THE AGE OF VICTIM, IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT FINGERPRINTS MIGHT NOT BE ON FILE. TRAGESER FAMILY AT WINCHESTER ADDRESS TEL 617 729 7608 NOTIFIED BY TELEPHONE AND THE BODY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR SHIPMENT TO THE UNITED STATES. CONOFF VISITED LAKE ATITLAN JULY 4 MADE LOCAL INQUIRIES AND IS SATISFIED AS TO IDENTIFICATION.

FYI: GUATEMALAN PRESS OF JULY 4 REPORTED THAT VICTIM HAD BEEN KILLED BY BLOWS ADMINISTERED BY AMERICAN COMPANIONS AND CAST INTO THE LAKE. CONOFF SPOKE WITH DOCTOR WHO PERFORMED AUTOPSY AT LAKE ATITLAN JULY 4. DOCTOR STATED BODY DID SHOW SIGNS OF PHYSICAL DAMAGE BUT THAT THIS COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY ROCKS, LAUNCHES OR  
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OTHER SUBMERGED OBJECTS. DOCTOR FURTHER SAID THAT THIS DETECTED PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO BODY COULD NOT HAVE CAUSED DEATH. DEATH ATTRIBUTED TO ASPHYXIATION BY IMMERSION. LUNGS CONTAINED LIQUID. CONOFF ALSO SPOKE WITH YOUNG AMERICANS WITH WHOM TRAGESER LIVED AND WHO SAW HIM LAST ON JUNE 29 (SAME GROUP THE PRESS SAID KILLED HIM). THEY SAID THEY HAD TROUBLE WITH HIM IN EARLY EVENING OF JUNE 29

AND THAT THEY USED FORCE TO RESTRAIN HIM FROM BOTHERING  
AN AMERICAN GIRL IN THE HOUSE. THEY ALLUDED TO, BUT DID  
NOT ACTUALLY STATE, THAT HE WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF  
DRUGS. AFTER THE ALTERCATION, TRAGESER LEFT RUNNING  
TOWARD THE BEACH AND THAT WAS THE LAST THEY SAW OF HIM.  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE DETERMINED THAT IT WAS AN ACCIDENTAL  
DEATH, ACCORDING TO PRESS OF JULY 6.  
BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Subject:** DEATH: DAVID ERIC TRAGESER BORN MASS. NOV. 30, 1956 EMBASSY INFORMED JULY 2 THAT DAVID ERIC TRAGESER OF 9 NORTH GATEWAY, WINCHESTER, MASS. 01890 DRO WNED, PROBABLY  
**TAGS:** CDES, (TRAGESER, DAVID ERIC)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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